Title: Demand to scrap the wage agreement signed between coal unions and the Government and to withdraw the Bill introduced in Rajya Sabha to denationalise the coal industry.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, more than six lakh coal workers had been on strike for three days, which ended yesterday. The strike was total in the four subsidiaries, ECL, BCCL, CCL and SECL and partially successful in other subsidiaries.

The demand of the six lakh coal workers is that the wage agreement, which was finalised and signed by all unions, except CITU on 13th September, be scrapped as the majority of the coal workers are not benefited because of this wage agreement. After the implementation of this agreement, majority of coal workers will get less wages than what they are getting now.

In the case of officers in the coal industry, the increase is to the extent of 120 per cent. But in the case of workmen, it is only 12 per cent. That is why majority of the coal workers have rejected it and they have proved it by making the strike a success. The strike was called by only one union, that is, CITU. So, I demand that the wage agreement, which was signed on 13th September, should be scrapped and Coal India should start a fresh wage agreement with the unions immediately.

There is another demand of the workers. A Bill has been introduced in Rajya Sabha in the last session to denationalise coal industry. All the workers and unions are against denationalisation of coal industry. Sir, the coal industry was nationalised in 1972-73. Now, there is a move to denationalise coal industry. So, I demand that the Bill, which has been introduced in Rajya Sabha to denationalise the coal industry, should be withdrawn.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.05 p.m.

1337 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till five minutes

past Fourteen of the Clock.